

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, claim 5 was objected to because of the informalities. In view of the objection, claim 5 has been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunii (US 6,671,109) in view of Biznyuk (US 2003/0008136). On page 4 of the Action, claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa (JP 10-133253) in view of Biznyuk (US 2003/0008136).

On page 5 of the Action, claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, and 6 of copending application No. 10/600,528. Also, on page 6 of the Action, claims 2-5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 7, and claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to change dependency, and new claim 9 has been filed.

In view of the indication of allowability to claim 2, it is believed that claim 6 now amended is patentable over the cited references.

In view of the provisional rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) has been filed herewith.

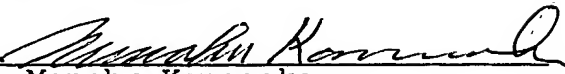
With the amendment and the terminal disclaimer, the application is now in condition of allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$110.00 is attached herewith for the terminal disclaimer fee.

Respectfully submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT AGENTS, LLP

by 
Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785